

your name, and I think we are not just talking here about senator's confidentiality but the public, the taxpayer, the people we represent. I do hope the press will look into that and maybe make a story out of what we are being charged for incomplected calls. Maybe I am wrong. Like I say, I haven't had a chance to check it out. But there is a story for the news media. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, one other point tying in with what Senator Higgins said but not exactly the same. Remember, and the media should be aware of this, they can get the total amount that we spend on calls and attribute it to each one of us. If you designate six telephones and there is no way to account for who uses it and how much time, then you get a total figure, and let's say it is \$50,000, so they estimate that on the average each senator is spending about a thousand plus dollars on those calls per year. Maybe I would never use the phone at all. But a certain amount is attributed to me in terms of calls that I feel should not be charged to me personally. The only time I use these phones back here is if a call is transferred from my office down here. I don't dial out numbers on those phones. I don't use other phones in the building unless I am in somebody's office and somebody tries to reach me and that is where they get me. They can look at the amount that is spent by me. They can find it right now by checking the records of the calls that I make. Now I don't think we should encourage people to funnel calls through any other telephones so that there is no way to even keep a record of the amount that we spend, and some distinctions should be made which I am afraid are not going to be made now because all types of issues have been injected. The media are responsible for a lot of this and when I say media, I mean those people in offices who make decisions that you never see. You wouldn't know if he or she were an editor. They send reporters to do their hired gun work. But one of the most laughable things I saw was I think in the Lincoln Star where they equated our not wanting all of our phone calls made open to the public with the reason the public won't vote to give us a raise. Now I think if there were no telephones at all, the public wouldn't vote to give us a raise. If we paid personally for the telephone service, the public is not going to vote to give us a raise, so when you talk about putting in false issues, that was one of the cheapest shots that a cheap news media could take. But while talking as though they are interested in protecting the rights